



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
NOV 21 2003
FBI CENTER 1800/2900

In re Application of: SALAMONE, Salvatore J. et al.
Serial No: 09/712,525
Filed: November 14, 2000
For: IMMUNOASSAY FOR HIV PROTEASE
INHIBITORS
Art Unit: 1648
Examiner: Lucas Zachariah

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 13, 2003

Dear Sir:

This reply is in response to the Official Action mailed on September 30, 2003.
Since no period for reply was specified, the time to reply expires on March 30, 2004

-1-

DOC. → Ext. 1mo.

12/09/2003 CTHOMAS2 00000001 022958 09712525
01 FC-2251 55.00 DA

claim 1, paragraph (a), and in claim 7, paragraph (a). It is not cross-reactive with other compounds in the sample, including agonists or antagonists of the HIV protease inhibitor. The method of claims 1-6 is specifically for determining an HIV protease inhibitor, and the method requires a receptor *specific* for the inhibitor and a conjugate comprising a ligand of the inhibitor and a non-isotopic signal generating moiety. It is not a screening method.

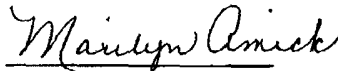
For the reasons set forth above, Applicants argue that the claims of Groups I and II are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept and comprise the same or corresponding technical features. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the restriction requirement.

* * * * *

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 02-2958. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

November 13, 2003



Marilyn L. Amick
Reg. No. 30,444

Roche Diagnostics Corp.
9115 Hague Road
Indianapolis, IN 46250
Phone: 317-576-7561
Fax: 317-576-2883

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)Applicant(s): Salamone et al.

Docket No.

RDId 00111 US

Serial No.

09/712,525

Filing Date

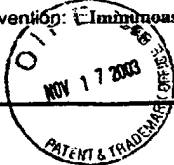
November 14, 2000

Examiner

Z. Lucas

Group Art Unit

1648

Invention: Immunoassay for HIV Protease Inhibitors**RECEIVED**
NOV 21 2003
TECH CENTER 1600/2347I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action of September 30, 2003

(Identify type of correspondence)

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on November 13, 2003

(Date)

Marsha S. Breen

(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)

(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.